

# THE IEFA BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2025



OPI's Matt Bell and Julie Jeffers

## IEFA EXPERTS PRESENTING AT THE 2/10 SUMMIT

- IEFA Language and Culture Inclusion with OPI's **Matt Bell**
- Centering Indigenous Voices in Historical Narratives with **Dylan Huskien**, 2019 Teacher of the Year
- Engaging Students Through Indigenous Storytelling with OPI's **Julie Jeffers**
- Building Strong Partnerships with **Anna East** and **Chris LaTray**



Dylan Huskien, Left  
Chris LaTray, above  
Anna East, right





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## ***NASS DEPARTMENT NEWS***



Levi Horn,  
Joli Juneau  
Emma Last Star



Noah Rasmussen

### Some January Highlights:

1/7 Tribal Flag dedication ceremony at Big Sky

1/18 N7 Game day experience at UM

1/28-1/31 NASS specialist Leigh Malatare goes to  
BCC to learn traditional hide tanning





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FEBRUARY 2025



## IEFA INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES

Keila Cross EL-5, ext. 1049

Charlie Struna 6-12, ext. 1068

Plasese reach out! We would love to find you resources, help plan a lesson, co-teach, model a lesson, and/or deliver PD to individuals, teams, or buildings.

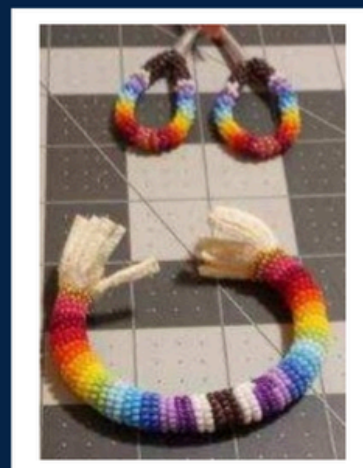


**MCPS Native American Services  
Presents:**

## EARRING Making WORKSHOP

Come and learn how to make rope wrapped earrings with Gisele and Valerie Forrest. Supplies are provided.

**Classes:  
2/3 and 2/10  
5:30-8 pm  
Missoula Butterfly  
House and  
Insectarium's  
Balsamroot Room**





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### Best Practices for Indigenous Guest Speakers in Classroom Lessons

Native American Student Services is happy to help you make connections with guest speakers, knowledge keepers and elders. Speakers are an excellent way to showcase contemporary Indigenous experts and leaders, to provide new perspectives, and to increase student engagement. Please follow these practices when inviting Indigenous speakers to the classroom:

**Plan ahead.** Following these guidelines to find the best possible speaker requires forethought and intention. Consider coming to an IEFA Work Session with your team to work with an IEFA coach on a speaking request.

**Before reaching out to a speaker,** ask yourself, “Is there already a resource available that fits this need?” There are thousands of resources already available on a wide range of Indigenous content and issues, including videos, field guides, apps, handbooks, virtual field trips, books, lessons and units. Many local content experts and Knowledge Keepers have digital presentations available as well. Consider coming to an IEFA Work Session to view available resources.

**Use speakers to provide content expertise.** Please do not contact speakers with general requests about identity, being indigenous, customs, etc. as this can come across as generalizing of all Indigenous identities and can feel tokenizing to the people you ask. Please only make requests to fulfill special content knowledge or areas of expertise.

**Be individually and tribally specific.** Please do not ask presenters to speak on behalf of all Indigenous peoples or tribes. Please center your request on the knowledge, experience or perspective the guest speaker can provide that is specific to them and/or their tribal affiliations.

**Provide compensation.** Speakers are taking time out of their work or family schedule to accommodate your request. Please offer compensation (\$50/hour, including planning time) and to cover travel expenses by providing a gas gift card. Reach out to your school PTA for financial assistance. Native American Student Services is not able to help with compensation.

**You must make the request.** We are happy to connect you to speakers, but the request to speak, including dates, times, content and compensation must come from you.

**If you make a request via email,** follow up with a phone call. Many of our knowledge keepers live in areas with limited internet and cell phone service. It may take repeat emails and calls to get a hold of someone.

**Stay engaged.** If a speaker is present in your classroom, please stay engaged during the lesson, take notes, and help with basic classroom management.



# MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

# INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL

# PIR OPPORTUNITIES

## 2024 - 2025 UPDATED PIR CALENDAR

DATES	LEARNING OPPORTUNITY
November 18, December 2 & 9	IEFA Book Club: <i>Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask</i>
January 13 - 31	Identifying and Countering Anti-Indigenous Bias (self-paced online)
January 22	Introduction to Indian Education for All
January 28	IEFA and SPARK! Arts: History through Ledger Art with Aspen and Cameron Decker
February 10 & 19	IEFA Book Club: <i>Becoming Little Shell</i>
February 10	Missoula Community Education Summit: Unpacking the Essential Understandings, Book Club discussion with Chris La Tray & more!
March 17-April 26	Understanding and Enjoying Powwows (self-paced online + in-person at the MCPS Native Youth Powwow)
April 7	IEFA and SPARK! Arts: Who are the Little Shell with Anna East and Chris La Tray
May 5, 12 & 19	IEFA Book Club: <i>Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults</i>
May 6	IEFA and SPARK! Arts: Making the Future with Aspen and Cameron Decker

*Sign up now in the PD Portal. More PIR opportunities and info in the monthly IEFA Bulletin.*



# MCPS NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

## IEFA WORK SESSIONS

### WHAT IS A WORK SESSION?

IEFA Work Sessions are an open work time to:

- > Collaborate with Knowledge Keepers, content experts and colleagues in order to create, update or improve IEFA lessons and materials
- > Explore available resources
- > Receive coaching support

### DATES

November 6  
December 4  
January 8  
February 5  
March 5  
April 2  
May 7

*More information available in the PD Portal and monthly IEFA Bulletin.*

## IEFA BOOK CLUB

Engage in personal and collaborative exploration of texts by and about Native Americans to build personal knowledge. Each book club opportunity consists of self-paced reading and 2-3 in-person discussions.

*Everything You Wanted to  
Know About Indians but Were  
Afraid to Ask*  
by Anton Treuer

11/18, 12/2, 12/9

*Becoming Little Shell:  
A Landless Indian's Journey  
Home*  
by Chris La Tray

2/10\* and 2/19

*\*Chris La Tray will lead the  
first discussion at the  
Community Education Summit*

*Braiding Sweetgrass for  
Young Adults*  
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

5/5, 5/12, 5/19

*Register in the PD Portal. More info in the monthly IEFA Bulletin.*

### NASS IEFA Instructional Coaches

EK-5: Sara Ibis, [sibis@mcpsmt.org](mailto:sibis@mcpsmt.org), ext 1049    6-12: Charlie Struna, [cstruna@mcpsmt.org](mailto:cstruna@mcpsmt.org), ext 1068



# NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES & SPARK! ARTS IGNITE LEARNING HOSTS

## A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES: USING THE ARTS TO TEACH IEFA

Aspen Decker (Tatáyáq̃n, Q̃lispé & Ksanka)  
Cameron Decker (Diné)

Chris La Tray (Métis / Little Shell)  
Anna East



*18th Annual*

*IEFA*

*Best Practices*

**Building Capacity for  
Effective Implementation**



*East Helena High School*

*March 24 & 25 2025*



**Check IEFA Website on**

**1-17-25**



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## FEBRUARY 2025

**More information on the class mentioned below**  
**[CLICK HERE TO SEE SYLLABUS AND REGISTER](#)**

# Native American Studies for Teachers

This course will help teachers develop understanding of American Indian history, culture, policy, and contemporary issues to create more comprehensive, accurate Indian Education for All teaching units. The first two weeks focus on tribal topics; the third week provides support for new or improved IEFA units, or choose to conduct research toward a future IEFA unit. Instructor: Michelle Mitchell

## Guest Speakers

Denise Juneau (Blackfeet/Mandan-Hidatsa), former Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Chris La Tray (Little Shell), 2023-2025 Montana Poet Laureate  
Kevin Kicking Woman (Blackfeet), 2024 Montana Teacher of the Year  
Michelle Mitchell (Salish), CSKT Tribal Education Director  
Mike Jetty (Spirit Lake Dakota), OPI Indian Education Specialist  
Lark Real Bird (Crow), Language Educator  
Bill Swaney (Salish), Former CSKT Tribal Education Director...and others!

## About the Course

**Course Dates:** Feb. 3-March 28, 2025

**Course Cost:** \$50-\$300 (pay what you can afford)

- Remote, asynchronous course offered Feb. 3-March 28, 2025
- 45 OPI renewal units
- Required text: *Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians But Were Afraid to Ask* by Anton Treuer (2023 edition).





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Missed last month's bulletin?

Previous editions are available in the  
[Indian Education Learning Hub Google Drive](#)

